

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on January 24, 1983, Chairman William Press presiding.

In attendance were:

Bertha W. Brooks	Mary Morley	A. Barnes King
Jean K. Brachman	Woodrow Vandever	John Grimaldi
Virginia Shaw	Bill Press	Shaul Gladstone
Helen Macklem	Amy Potter Cook	Earl Rentz, Sr. (NV)
Bill Miller	Gail Rinehart	Donald Holcomb
Sally Hamburger	Patricia Press	Ruth Holcomb
Beverly Laws	Cy Liberman	Frank Herzog
Rae F. Gerstine	Aaron Hamburger	Ruth Panella
Wayne Kershaw	Irene R. Heymann	Mary Burslem
Jim Brooks	Frank Heymann	Elizabeth Varley Walker
Sally Thurston	Paul Thompson	Carl Falco
Mary Brent Whipple	Joan W. Colgan	Janet Macnamara
William Bailey	Ruth Shaw	David Warner
Fred Smith	Eugene Shaw	Susan Warner
Bernard Brachman	Thomas E. Colgan	Naomi Clark
Ethel Monfort	Lee Starr	Wayne Knotts
Dora Johnson	Pat Liberman	Kay Horton
Arlene Bindloss	Frank Akutowicz	Alton Dahl

Addition to September 1982 minutes:

It was brought to the committee's attention that the Town Watch Program is currently non-functioning due to the illness of Bart Passanante, the coordinator. This program has been an effective method of crime and vandalism prevention in the past; it is important that it be maintained. Gail Rinehart volunteered to assume the coordinating duties.

A minute of silence was observed in memory of Madeline Souder and Jim Ware, two long time residents of the community who died recently. The absence of Jim Ware's voice in the Gild Hall will be felt by all of us. Memorial services are planned in the Gild Hall on Saturday, January 29 at 2 PM for Jim Ware, and on Sunday, January 30 at 4:30, for Madeline Souder.

Standing Committee Reports

Trustees - Cy Liberman

I regret to report that Bill Morley is hospitalized. Cards may be sent to him at Memorial Division.

On financial matters, you can see from the budget report (on file) that the village is getting through the year within the limits of the budget. That item of #103 is a credit, it represents income from the sale of Arden books, plates, and such.

The rent bills for the new fiscal year have been mailed out and the response has been excellent, more than instantaneous. We received rent payments for two leaseholds even before the bills were sent out. So far, we have received \$18,275, which is more than 13 percent of the \$136,000 to be collected. That money will be invested as it comes in. Interest rates are down, of course, as compared with last year, but the Trust still gets a significant return on investments.

Buzz Ware Village Center Committee - Elizabeth Varley Walker

The Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since the last Town Meeting.

The Wilmington Montessori Association has completed the bathroom renovation, and constructed the new hallway.

The Committee has contracted to have some roof repairs done for \$500, that project is planned to start soon. A new door closer has been installed on the front door. Someone has dumped an old mattress on Sunset Lane near the Center's dumpster. The offender has been notified to remove the mattress and save it for the special pick-up in the Spring. The trash men will not pick this oversize item up. The community is reminded that this dumpster is for removing the Center's rubbish, and not for removing trash and refuse from individual homes.

The Committee has held discussions with the Hanby Corners Fire Association about their providing an instructor for a CPR course to be offered to the community at the Center. A Henry George School course will begin on January 27, 1983, and continue for ten weeks.

The Committee is sponsoring a Wine Tasting Party on Sunday, March 13, 1983, from 7 PM to 9 PM. More details will be announced in the February issue of the Arden Page. We hope this will be the start of a series of Sunday evening get-togethers. However, we need volunteers from the community to help us out on this project. If anyone is interested in having the Center open on a regular Sunday basis, please contact Diane Kershaw, Yvonne King, or myself. We are always open to suggestions for other programs.

Our next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 28 at 7 PM at the Center. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Budget Committee - no report.

Community Planning Committee - Cy Liberman

The Planning Committee is continuing to operate the Memorial Garden and has not had a special project this winter. Our next special project will be a review of the Spring House and Pond at the Memorial Garden to determine what improvement might be made. We will of course consult with the Civic Committee on that matter.

Civic Committee - Joan Colgan

The Civic Committee met and compiled a list of nominees for the committee to be presented at this meeting. We regret to announce that Mary Morley, who has served the town and the committee faithfully and well, has requested that her name not be put in nomination. We respect her wishes, but will miss her help and presence.

We met jointly with the Safety Committee and the outcome of that meeting will be reported by the Safety Committee.

Civic Committee approved, in principle, a request by the Play-ground Committee to increase the size of the black-top area of the basketball court by 20 feet. We understand that this will not encroach on the baseball diamond area.

The need for top soil is ongoing for the village, so we are asking that each time a contract is signed it should be understood that any soil removed should be placed in a place designated by the Civic Committee.

We accepted a bid from the McCann Tree Service for the removal of the large double tree at the corner of Green and Cherry lanes. The work will be done as soon as possible and only the brush will be removed. The wood will be cut in lengths that Arden residents can cut into fire wood. We would appreciate it if wood choppers would remove the sawdust and other debris.

We have had a rash of sign robberies and vandalism.

Each resident received a copy of the right-of-way widths and Ordinance #11.

The work along Harvey Road beside the Memorial Garden is almost completed by the State. This project, requested by the Civic Committee and authorized by a bill presented to the legislature by Gwyn Smith, will eliminate the drainage through the Memorial Garden. The water will now flow into Perkins Run below the bridge rather than above it. Discussion ensued as to whether the Town Assembly had been consulted before the work was ordered, some residents did not feel the project was a good idea. The Civic Committee felt the improved drainage would allow more space in the Memorial Garden for "the folks". Community Planning said it had been consulted and approved. All committees were reminded that structural changes in the community must be discussed at Town Assembly.

Playground Committee - William Bailey

Playground equipment inspection took place on December 19, 1982, and no irregularities were found. The next inspection is scheduled for February 12, 1983.

Inspection and maintenance of the basketball backstops behind the BWVC has been the responsibility of the Playground Committee. In addition to this, the Playground Committee has now assumed responsibility for the maintenance of the blacktop surface behind the BWVC.

Registration Committee - Virginia Shaw

The Committee reports 402 residents eligible to vote at this Assembly, three less than qualified for the referendum in October. There have, however, been twenty-four changes during that four months, twelve new persons becoming eligible and twelve leaving.

The Committee prepared and mailed ballots for the fall referendum to be returned by November 2, 1982. There were 304 valid ballots cast, just over 75% of the possible 405. The budget passed as proposed. The elected Assessors are William Press, John Grimaldi, Bernard Brachman, Eugene Shaw, Harold Monfort, Ruth Panella, and Donald Holcomb, with Lee Starr and Deborah Theis as first and second alternates. We wish to thank the townspeople for their cooperation in making this a genuinely representative turnout.

After a long delay the Bureau of Records Management, part of the State Archives setup in Dover, has completed its analysis of Arden's record structure and has prepared a retention schedule for us. This schedule specifies, for each unit of our government,

which types of record must be kept permanently and which may be culled after varying periods of time. Possibly more important, it makes space in the State vaults available to us for safely storing important but infrequently used documents. All items transferred, we wish to emphasize, remain under our complete control. During the next few months the Records Officer, the Town Clerk, the Treasurer and the various administrative committee heads will do the necessary work on our files.

At intervals in recent years the Registration Committee has sponsored a series of neighborhood get-togethers in the various sections of Arden. One was authorized for 1981/82, but after only one party the series was cancelled because of unusual demands on our funds. Our current budget allows for completing the series, which we hope to do in February and March.

Safety Committee - Wayne Kershaw

Dogs running loose. A resident of Ardentown has been harrassed at least twice by an unleashed dog owned by an Arden resident. This last time Mrs. Thaddeus was forced to the ground by a jumping, snapping dog, breaking her elbow and needing medical attention. The Safety Committee was notified and we have contacted the dog's owner. Further action may be taken by Mrs. Thaddeus with the Committee's backing. We ask all residents to take action against anyone who allows their pets to run loose to prevent further accidents. We have also received two complaints from residents concerned with loose dogs tearing into their trash.

Police. This committee has discussed the possibility of changing from the County Police to the State Police patrol if we can find funding and if our budget permits. This is more costly but probably more effective. We have had our share of problems, not having full cooperation from the County Police in various incidents this past summer and fall.

Parking on the Green. The Safety Committee met with the Civic Committee to resolve the parking problem on and around the Green. The proposal suggested by these two committees will be presented under old business.

Harvey Road problem. This will be reported upon under old business.

Assessors - Bill Press

The assessors have met twice since the election; lively discussions have been going on.

Special Committees

Storage Shed Committee - Bill Press

A special committee formed to study the possibility of building a town storage shed has been appointed by direction of the September Town Assembly. The committee consists of Leon Tanzer, Joan Colgan, Wayne Kershaw, and Woodrow Vandever. They will be prepared to report to the March meeting.

Arden Arts Acquisition Committee - Hugh Roberts

The committee was formed in June, 1978, with the concept of purchasing a Charles Vinson work as the start of an ongoing acquisition program of art by Arden artists. The chairperson was George Kazan and interested members were: Margaret Kazan, Jean and Bernard Brachman, Tom and Joan Colgan, Barbara Fenske, Pat Liberman, Russ McKinney, and Hugh Roberts. Membership was open to any interested person.

Activities to raise money were: a letter and pledge form that was circulated through the three Ardens, sponsoring the art exhibit at the Arden Fair where a number of Vinson works were exhibited, and donations were sought, and a bus trip to the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., which was a money loser because of poor attendance.

The committee found that no Vinson paintings would be sold until possibly 1982 and the anticipated cost would be quite high.

The committee has not been active since the spring of 1980. Financial summary of funds retained in the account: Income - \$670 (contributions - \$310, bus trip - \$360). Expenses (trip) - \$382. Balance - \$288.

Discussion: What use should be made of the remaining funds? Money should be used soon. Do we have enough to purchase a Vinson work? Who is the chairman of the committee? Bill Press and Sally Hamburger will investigate who is authorized to sign checks. What is the actual purpose of this committee, to help the Vinson family or to acquire art by Arden artists?

Motion. Moved that this committee be directed to contact the Vinson family and try to come to some agreement regarding the purchase of a Charles Vinson work by the March Town Assembly.

Motion passed, 25 aye, 15 nay.

Old Business

The problems with the Millstein property on Cherry Lane have been solved, the house has been sold and the tenants have moved out.

Safety Committee Proposal Re: Arden Green Parking.

Problem: Illegal parking on Inn Lane and around the Arden Green.

Proposed Solution.

- 1) Restore available parking space on Cherry, Green, and Woodland Lanes by requiring residents around the Green to clear the right-of-way in front of their leaseholds of rocks and shrubbery. This would provide space for 25 - 30 cars. Residents will be given 30 days to comply with this request, which is mandated by Ordinance #11 entitled encroachment on right-of-way. If the right-of-way is not cleared in that time, the work will be done by the Civic Committee at the leaseholder's expense.
- 2) Remove the residents-only parking restriction on Cherry, Green, and Woodland Lanes.

- 3) Encircle the boundaries of the Green with a yellow line indicating a no-parking zone. This will eliminate the problem of disappearing no-parking signs.
- 4) Inform all residents around the Green in writing of this action upon approval by Town Assembly.

Discussion:

Each resident received a copy of Ordinance #11 including the widths of right-of-way on each street in town. If you have misplaced your copy, please contact Sally Hamburger for a copy. The right-of-way is not always equal on either side of a road since the roads are not always in the center of the right-of-way. There are some exceptions.

The restriction against overnight parking will remain. Why not close Inn Lane to traffic and put telephone poles on both sides of that road? Why discriminate against the residents of Cherry, Green, and Woodland Roads? All leaseholders should be required to remove obstructions from the right-of-way in front of their leaseholds. Would it help the situation to light the Green? This might encourage more gathering.

Pro: This is a responsible plan, one that removes the existing dilemma of no-parking on the Green side and residents-only parking on the residential side of the roads around the Green. This is not a perfect plan, but the most workable one the committees could devise.

Con: Won't this solution cause more noisy gatherings? More littering? This problem already exists, this proposal does not address this situation. Safety Committee plans to increase town watch activity on the weekends and is considering using the State Police instead of County. The County patrol is cheaper, but less effective.

Motion passed.

Harvey Road Report.- Jim Brooks

A letter has been received from Charles Workman, State Highway Engineer, reminding us that a traffic survey was conducted in June, 1982. At that time the 25 mile speed limit signs were made to coincide logically. The Department felt there was little more they could do short of widening the road. Removal of trees, steps, and mailboxes should be handled by the town. Speed enforcement would be up to the police department.

A discussion with Steven Truitt, District #1 Traffic Engineer, revealed that he would be willing to review the safety survey of the Harvey and Orleans intersection if the town made a formal request. This should be reviewed as a school crossing, particularly in view of the expansion of the Montessori school since June, 1982.

Discussion

What about an overhead crossway at that intersection? Gwyn Smith, our representative, looked into the possibility of

relocating the unused crossway from Rte. 202 in front of the old A.I. Dupont School. This would be expensive and crossways have been found to be an unsatisfactory solution; pedestrians get tired of using them, they become a haven for unsavory gatherings and a graffiti covered eyesore to the community.

The State is unwilling to consider a stop sign at the intersection. They have found stop signs have a negative effect on the traffic flow and tend to cause rear end collisions.

This stretch of road is not being patrolled for speeding because it is too narrow.

Report from Hanby Corners Fire Association - Earl Rentz, Sr.

A formal application to form a fire company has been filed in January with the State Fire Commission. The application has been referred to the Attorney General's Office, Deputy Attorney General Marshon is handling the case. The Fire Commission will meet on February 8th in Lewes, Mr. Marshon will be present to discuss the application procedure. There are no existing guidelines to cover the procedure. Governor duPont has issued a statement backing the task-force report and supporting the finding that two fire stations are needed in the Claymont area.

The case of the Hanby Trust vs. the Claymont Fire Company has gone to the Court of Chancery. Hanby Trust claims the Claymont Fire Company violated the agreement by not operating a full-fledged station there, thus the building should revert to the Hanby Trust. There are 2 engines, 1 driver, and 1 deputy chief there at the moment. The paramedics in station #31 are not allowed to respond to calls in the Claymont area, only to those in Talleyville or elsewhere in Brandywine Hundred. Hanby Corners Fire Co. would like to use this building as their station. The Court is now deliberating the question of whether the Court of Chancery is the appropriate body to decide the case or whether it belongs in a higher court.

Residents are urged to attend the February 8th, 7:30 PM meeting in Lewes. Public participation in these meetings is important as the decision will depend greatly on the public's perception of its safety. Hanby Corners group will supply rides, contact Barney King for this. Bill Press will extend this message to Ardentown and Ardencroft.

New Business

Committee Nominations - presented by the Advisory Committee

AUDIT: Alton Dahl, Gail Rinehart, Sally Thurston, James Schwaber, Bill Bindloss, Finn Hannover

BUDGET: Leon Tanzer, Dora Johnson, Harold Monfort, Lee Starr
Ruth Holcomb, Sally Thurston, Carl Falco, James Schwaber

BUZZ WARE VILLAGE CENTER: Diane Kershaw, Yvonne King, Sarah Moore,
C. Mason Morgan, Sean Warner, Beverly Laws, Susan Warner

CIVIC: Joan Colgan, Gail Rinehart, Russ McKinney, Ruth Panella,
Deborah Theis, Nancy Badnor

COMMUNITY PLANNING: Ethel Monfort, Frank Akutowicz, Ruth Shaw,
Cecelia Vore, Lee Starr, Naomi Clark

PLAYGROUND: William Bailey, Mary Burslem, Nancy Badnor,
Stephanie Enie, Albert Marks, Mary Brent Whipple
REGISTRATION: Virginia Shaw, Jean Brachman, Bea Jaffe, Helen
Macklem, Helen Vinson, Marge Roberts, Arlene
Bindloss, Mary Brent Whipple
SAFETY: Paul Thompson, David Warner, James Brooks, Bill Miller,
Fred Smith, Stephanie Enie, Wayne Knotts, John Hewlett
ADVISORY CHAIRMAN: Elizabeth Varley Walker, Alton Dahl
TOWN ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN: Bill Press
TOWN ASSEMBLY TREASURER: Rae Gerstine
TOWN ASSEMBLY SECRETARY: Sarah Hamburger

Nominees are reminded that they are expected to attend committee meetings and Town Assembly regularly.

Playground Committee Proposal moved and seconded.
(background explanation on file)

- 1) The present basketball backstop should be removed and a new low maintenance backstop be installed at the opposite end of the court. This is to be done in the 1983-84 budget year.
- 2) The existing blacktop behind the BWVC should be resurfaced. This is to be done in the 1984-85 budget year.
- 3) An extension of the existing blacktop should be constructed and a new low maintenance backstop should be installed to complete the full court game. This is to be done in the 1985-86 budget year and to be reviewed by the Town Assembly before any action is taken.

Discussion

A resolution passed by the Town Assembly in January, 1982, approved a half-court basketball area. The remaining money WMA owed the town has been spent on playground equipment.

Con: Does the town really need a full basketball court? Have the basketball players been consulted? Moving the backstop would put it next to the building and interfere with play.

Pro: The backstop would be 12 feet from the building if relocated. Moving the backstop now would make possible a later extension of the court if desired. It would be wise to have the option open.

Proposed amendment:

- 1) A low maintenance backstop should be installed to replace the present backstop (eliminate the words "at the opposite end of the court").

Amendment defeated: 25 nay, 10 aye.

Motion approved as originally proposed.

Moved and seconded that the Safety Committee investigate the feasibility of a crossway at Harvey and Orleans, cost, legal and practical restrictions, and report to the March Town Assembly.

Motion passed.

Good and Welfare

Please take time to walk the Arden Woods in Spring and Summer.
Dirtbiking has been a problem there and this is a good way to keep
an eye on the situation.

Respectfully Submitted.

Sarah Haulwurger